

ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY (ABI)

ABI is damage to the brain that was not present at birth. ABI can result in cognitive, physical, emotional, or behavioural impairments that lead to permanent or temporary changes in functioning.

There are two categories of ABI – **NON-TRAUMATIC** and **TRAUMATIC**:

NON-TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

Non-traumatic brain injuries are the result of non-violent causes. Below are some of the more common types of non-traumatic brain injury:

- Stroke
- Brain Aneurysm
- Brain Tumors
- Infection: Bacterial/viral infections may cause:
 - Encephalitis – inflammation of the brain.
 - Meningitis – inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and/or spinal cord.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

Traumatic brain injuries occur because of a specific event that results in a violent impact to the head. The injuries are classed as either minor or server. These events include:

- Road traffic accidents
- Assaults
- Falls
- Work place accidents
- Sports injuries (concussions)

Some forms of acquired brain injury, such as a stroke tend to cause localised damage to the brain. Others, meningitis for example, in most cases causes widespread brain damage.

The impact of acquired brain injury can vary dramatically from person to person and the part of the brain effected *may* be different in each individual case.

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